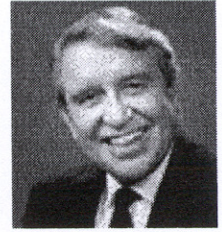




NEWS FROM **JACK SCOTT**

21ST SENATE DISTRICT



For Immediate Release
September 13, 2001

Contact: Alison Merrilees
916-445-5976

SENATOR SCOTT'S HANDGUN SAFETY TRAINING BILL MOVES TO GOVERNOR'S DESK

SACRAMENTO -- Senator Jack Scott (D-Pasadena) announced today that SB 52, his landmark handgun safety training bill, was approved by the Senate by a 23-13 vote today. SB 52 requires handgun purchasers to obtain a handgun safety certificate before buying a handgun. SB 52 now goes to Governor Davis for action.

"SB 52 is a common sense measure with broad law enforcement support," said Senator Scott. "Handgun buyers should know how to use guns before bringing them into their homes and communities."

"While this bill may not stop every death caused by gunfire, SB 52 will save lives and prevent many injuries," continued Scott. Senator Scott's son, Adam, was shot and killed in 1993 by a person who carelessly handled a gun.

In order to obtain a handgun safety certificate under SB 52, applicants will have to pass a written test regarding firearms laws and safety rules. At the store where they purchase their gun, buyers will give a thumbprint, provide identification and proof of residency, and pass a background check. Then, when they pick up their handgun, purchasers will have to demonstrate to a safety instructor that they understand and know how to operate the gun.

SB 52 is supported by a long list of law enforcement officials and organizations, including the Peace Officers Research Association (PORAC), which represents over 50,000 rank-and-file peace officers and over 660 local peace officer associations. Other law enforcement supporters include California State Department of Justice/Attorney General's Office, California Police Chiefs Association, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, Alameda County Sheriff's Department, San Mateo County Sheriff's Department, Los Gatos Police Department, Los Angeles Police Department, Alameda Police Department, and the Hispanic American Police Command Officers Association.

Current gun owners would only have to obtain a certificate if they wish to buy additional handguns. The handgun safety certificate would cost \$45 and be valid for five years. The provisions in SB 52 would affect gun purchases made after January 1, 2003.

The Governor has until October 14 to act on SB 52.

#####